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Message Text

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61
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DRAFTED BY EUR/CAN:DBLAKEMORE:CLJ/FHWA:WSMENDENHALL
APPROVED BY EUR/CAN:JHROUSE,JR.
---------- 104544
R 221417Z JUL 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
INFO AMCONSUL VANCOUVER

UNCLAS STATE 181296

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BTIO, ELTN, CA

SUBJECT: ALASKA HIGHWAY: HAINES CUTOFF

1. PER O'CONNOR/BLAKEMORE TELCON JULY 21, THE EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO OFFICIALLY BRING TO THE ATTENTION OF APPROPRIATE CANADIAN AUTHORITIES THE CONCERNS RE FUNDING FOR THE HAINES RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT WHICH ARE EXPRESSED IN THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE PREPARED BY FHWA:

2. QUOTE--THE 1973 FEDERAL-AID HIGHWAY ACT AUTHORIZED U.S. FUNDS FOR RECONSTRUCTION OF CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE ALASKA HIGHWAY-HAINES CUTOFF IN CANADA. SEVERAL MEETINGS WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN CANADA HAVE PRODUCED A DRAFT JOINT COUNTRY AGREEMENT THAT IS GENERALLY ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH COUNTRIES. THE ONLY DELAY WE ARE AWARE OF IN FINALIZING THE AGREEMENT IS THE NEED FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA APPROVAL, WHICH HAS NOT BEEN OBTAINED. FURTHER DELAY IN FINALIZING THE AGREEMENT COULD SERIOUSLY JEOPARDIZE OUR ABILITY TO SECURE TIMELY AND ADEQUATE APPROPRIATIONS OF FUNDS FROM THE U.S. CONGRESS. IT COULD RESULT IN CONGRESS RECONSIDERING THE DESIRABILITY OF THE ENTIRE PROJECT.

3. A BUDGET LEVEL FOR FY 77 HAS BEEN AGREED TO BY THE
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HOUSE AND SENATE. HOWEVER, THE APPROPRIATION HAS NOT BEEN

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APPROVED BY THE CONGRESS. THE FY 78 BUDGET FOR THE PROJECT MUST BE INITIATED BY JULY 28, 1976. WE NEED TO HAVE SOME DEFINITE ADVICE CONCERNING CANADA'S ABILITY TO PROCEED WITH THE PROJECT BY JULY 28 TO ENABLE US TO PROCEED WITH THE PROCESSING OF THE FY 78 BUDGET. WE REQUEST THIS MATTER BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE APPROPRIATE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND THEY BE URGED TO EXPEDITE FINALIZING THE COUNTRY AGREEMENT.-- UNQUOTE. ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

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